STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the Fifty-sixth, Fifty-seventh and Fifty-eighth Reports of the Department—related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information and Technology

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): Sir, on behalf of my colleague, Shri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao Scindia, I wish to make statements regarding status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the Fifty-sixth, Fifty-seventh and Fifty-eighth Reports of the Departmentrelated Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information and Technology. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 9647/08]

MR. CHAIRMAN: We resume the debate. Dr. Karan Singh.

DISCUSSION ON THE STATEMENT MADE BY MINISTER—Contd.

Recent Terrorist Attacks in Mumbai

DR. KARAN SINGH (NCT OF DELHI): Mr. Chairman Sir, we face today a situation in which the whole nation has been deeply hurt. The horrific attack in Mumbai was not only an attack on that great city with which many of us have been associated for decades, but it was an attack on the heart of India, on the mind of India, and on the soul of India. And, as the horrified people of this country were watching for three days and three nights the unfolding events, there was a deep sense of rage and helplessness that was felt throughout the country.

A national tragedy, Mr. Chairman, calls for a national response. And, I am very glad that my good friend, Arun Shourie, despite his criticisms in various ways, has taken a constructive stand and has said that they are not going to criticize, but make positive suggestions.

Sir, at the outset, I would like to pay homage to all the brave men and women who took the brunt of this terrible attack, the Maharashtra Police, who lost some of their crack officers, the National Security Guards, the fire fighters, the staff of the Taj and the Trident Hotels, who showed exemplary calmness under great pressure and saved a large number of guests, and to the people of Mumbai as a whole. I also express deep sympathy for those innocent people who were killed. Men, women and children were mowed down. What sort of people could do this? What sort of mindset would that have been, Mr. Chairman, when a young couple, a man, his pregnant wife, and a tiny child were mowed down? Our sympathy to the near ones of all those people who have lost their lives and to all of those who are still struggling in hospitals, over 300 people; we pray for their early recovery.

Sir, it is true that terrorism has become widespread throughout the country. In Jammu and Kashmir, we have been facing it for 60 years; the rest of the country has really faced it mainly for 20 years. It is a massive problem, a nationwide problem. Those who are behind these attacks,